CLAIMS :

1. A process for preparing highly water soluble alkaline earth and alkali metal double salts of hydroxycitric acid comprising the steps of precipitating sparingly soluble alkaline earth metal salts of hydroxycitric acid from an aqueous extract of the plants belonging to Garcinia species, dissolving said alkaline earth metal salts in aqueous alkali, adjusting the pH of said alkaline solution by adding an extract of purified Garcinia fruit extract thereto, purifying and drying the same thereafter to obtain highly soluble double salts of hydroxycitric acid.

2. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein calcium salt of hydroxycitric acid is precipitated from the aqueous extract of Garcinia plant by adding calcium hydroxide thereto.

3. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein calcium salt of hydroxycitric acid is precipitated from the aqueous extract of Garcinia plant by adding a solution of sodium hydroxide thereto followed by adding a solution of calcium chloride.

4. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the Garcinia plant is Garcinia atroviridis, Garcinia cambogia or Garcinia indica.

5. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fruit rind of Garcinia species is subjected to aqueous extraction.

6. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said calcium salt is treated with KOH solution having a concentration of 5 to 50%, preferably 5 to 15% weight/volume.

7. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said purified Garcinia fruit extract is obtained by treating the aqueous extract thereof with acetone, and separating the insolubles therefrom.

8. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said aqueous extract containing the double salt is purified by treatment with activated charcoal, filtered and then spray dried.

9. The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the filtrate is concentrated and dried under vacuum.

10. A pharmaceutical composition containing highly water soluble alkaline earth and alkali metal double salts of hydroxycitric acid for treating obesity.